Manufacture and efficacy of Amrit Kalash

827. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an Ayurvedic medicine 'Amrit Kalash' is being widely marketed and advertised in India;

(b) whether the efficacy of the medicine has been established after clinical trials in Government laboratories and hospitals; and

(c) what are the names of the companies which are manufacturing this medicine in India under different trade names indicating the retail price of each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD). (a) to (c) There have been a few reports in a Section of the Indian Press about a herbal Food Supplement preparation named 'Amrit Kalash' prepared by Maharishi Ayurveda, Noida (UP), as a proprietary item. It has been claimed that the preparation is useful in certain heart ailments, cancer, etc. However, Scientific evidence is scanty.

Spread of Jaundice due to the supply of impure drinking water to South Delhi colonies

828. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the spread of jaundice in South Delhi colonies, especially in Vasant Kunj;

(b) whether the water supplied to these colonies have been tested and found fit for drinking purposes; if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether drinking water is not properly treated before supplying to Delhi residents; and

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and take steps to supply pure drinking water to stop further spread of the disease and also bring to book those responsible for supplying impure drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) A team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases visited South Delhi areas including Press Enclave Vasant Kunj and investigated the viral hepatitic cases reported from these areas through house to house survey. No evidence of increase in jaundice was noticed.

(b) and (c) According to the information received from Delhi Development Authority, samples of water from all the sources of water supply were tested in the last week of April '90 for bacteriological as well as chemical tests and the results were found to be satisfactory. A sample of water was also collected by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi staff in a surprise check from one of the underground tanks of Vasant Kunj on 29-6-90 which was found fit for human consumption.

Quality Control measures adopted by Municipal Corporation of Delhi

In order to provide safe drinking water supply to the residents of Delhi, strict quality control measures are adopted under the control of Director, Treatment & Quality Control Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking. The quality of water is checked at every stage of treatment right from the raw water stage upto storage in service reservoirs and also in the distribution system at the consumers end. Besides, water supplied from ranney wells and tube wells and from distribution system is also tested on regular basis to ensure that no contamination has taken place during transmission of water through municipal mains. Near about 100 water samples are lifted daily from the distribution system i.e. individual taps and public hydrants.

Use of packing materials by drug manufacturers

829. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some drug manufacturers use costly packaging materials which unnecessarily increase the costs